



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2011

CONTACT: Lourdes Lopez
(626) 315-4230 – cell

EL MONTE CELEBRATION TO KICK-OFF CONSTRUCTION ON GIBSON MARIPOSA NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

WHAT: A project more than five years in the works, the City of El Monte will host an upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the newly christened Gibson Mariposa Park. Made possible through grant funds awarded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the State of California Office of Grants and Local Services, and Los Angeles County Proposition A Funds, construction of the neighborhood park is set to begin in February 2011.

Plans for the new park began with a letter writing campaign by a fifth grade class at Shirpser Elementary School in 2003, urging the El Monte City Council to build a new park. The campaign was initiated by then-Shirpser Elementary employee, long-time community activist, and current Chairperson of the Steering Committee, Stella Beltran. The 4.3 acre plot of land, originally an industrial site, was purchased by the City of El Monte, in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land, in 2005. Construction on the new park has been delayed multiple times, including in 2007 due to the State's bond freeze. However, the dream park for so many residents is now ready to be built.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (626) 580-2200.

WHO: Mayor André Quintero and the El Monte City Council; Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina; Congresswoman Judy Chu; Assemblymember Mike Eng; and Senator Ed Hernandez

WHEN: Thursday, February 24, 2011
10:00 a.m. – Refreshments
10:30 a.m. -- Ceremony

WHERE: 4140 Gibson Road.
El Monte, CA 91731

###

The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit www.elmonteca.gov.